Defaulting Borrowers of Banks

4355. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the defaulting borrowers of banks and financial institutions at the end of April, 1995;

(b) what steps are being taken to improve discipline among borrowers and to recover outstanding debts; and

(c) how many suits have been filed for recovery of debts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tax Relief on Widely Consumed Articles

4356. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: (a) what is the basic consideration for identification of "widely consumed articles" and articles of mass consumption" for the purpose allowing tax relief in the 1995-96 Budget;

(b) whether the detergent, nearly 70 per cent of which is produced in the non-power detergent sector and consumed entirely by the poor and lower middle class, is an essential commodity of mass consumption;

(c) if so, why detergent is subjected to 30 per cent since 1991-92 and no relief on the tax burden on detergent has been considered necessary since then;

(d) whether there is any other "widely consumed" and "common consuption' manufactured goods which is subject to same level of duty of 30 percent;

(e) whether Government will consider reduction of duty on detergent also in consonance with its commitment to reduce excise duty burden on "widely consumed" and "Common consumption' and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRE OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Excise duty on goods is prescribed taking into account all relevant considerations, including its nature, pattern of consuumption and use, demand and supply position, and general class of consumers.

(b) and (c) The prices of detergents vary widely and they are used by large coross section of the people. For the present the excise duty 30 per cent is considered as appropriate rate of duty on detergents;

(d) Goods, such as, instant coffee, pan masala, aerated water, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, white cement, cosmetics and toilet preparations, attract excise duty of 30 per cent or higher:

(e) and (f): At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce excise duty on detergents.

Profits earned by Nationalised banks

4357. SMT. ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many nationalised banks are making profit:

(b) whether Government have given any guidelines to nationalised banks for increasing profitability; and

(c) what are the deposits and advances figures of all the nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that out of 19 nationalised banks, which have published their balance sheets for the year ended 31st March,